# LUNESDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year 1913.

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# Lunesdale Rural District Council.

*To the Chairman and Members of the*
*Lunesdale Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to present to you my Third Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your District.

In estimating the Birth and Death Rates I am taking the population at 6,883, according to the Census of 1911.

## BIRTHS.

The number registered throughout the whole District was 107, as compared with 136 in 1912, showing a decrease of 29. Males 55, females 52, one of which was illegitimate. This decrease is the lowest on record in your area and appears to me to be somewhat abnormal.

The rate per 1,000 = 15·5. 1913.
,, ,, = 19·7. 1912.

The number registered in the Sub-Districts and the comparison with the previous year is as follows:—

| | *1913.* | *1912.* |
|---|---|---|
| Caton ... ... ... ... | 45 ... | 60 |
| Wray ... ... ... ... | 23 ... | 38 |
| Arkholme ... ... ... | 29 ... | 28 |
| Tunstall ... ... ... | 10 ... | 10 |

## DEATHS.

84 Deaths—52 males and 32 females—were registered in the District, giving a rate per 1,000 of 12·2, to which must be added 6 deaths of residents outside the area, being a total of 90, which gives a rate per 1,000 = 13.

| | *1913.* | *1912.* |
|---|---|---|
| Caton ... ... ... ... | 41 ... | 28 |
| Wray ... ... ... ... | 25 ... | 26 |
| Arkholme ... ... ... | 13 ... | 15 |
| Tunstall ... ... ... | 5 ... | 4 |

The ages at which death occurred are as follows :—

| | Under 1 year. | 1 to 5. | 5 to 15. | 15 to 25. | 25 to 65. | Over 65. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1913 ... | 8 ... | Nil ... | 2 ... | 4 ... | 28 ... | 42 |
| 1912 ... | 8 ... | 4 ... | 3 ... | 3 ... | 23 ... | 32 |

Although these figures show an increase over the years 1911 and 1912, I venture to say they are not unsatisfactory when the several ages are taken into account, half the deaths occurring after the age of 65.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths under one year is eight, the same number taking place last year, giving per 1,000 births registered under one year of age.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1913 | ... | ... | 8 | = ·58 |
| 1912 | ... | ... | 8 | = ·58 |

The cause of death being 2 convulsions, 2 pneumonia, 1 enteritis, 2 premature birth, 1 marasmus.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of infectious diseases reported was 18, a decrease of 30 as compared with last year. There were 12 cases of scarlet fever, 2 of enteric fever, 2 diphtheria, 2 erysipelas. The cases of scarlet fever were as usual of a mild nature and appear to have been brought into your district by children who had been spending their holidays with their various relations at a distance, no other contact being traceable. I am glad to be able to report that there were no deaths. The two cases of enteric fever were of a severe type and were contracted, as far as could be ascertained, one from decomposing garbage and the other from drinking stagnant ditch-water. It is to be regretted that there was one death.

## ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

There were 12 cases treated in this Institution as against 29 cases last year. Of these 10 were cases of scarlet fever and 2 enteric fever. The other two cases of scarlet fever were treated in their own homes. There was one death from enteric fever. The nursing was excellent and efficient in every way.

## PHTHISIS.

There were two deaths from this disease as compared with 3 in 1912, which is very satisfactory and shows that your District is particularly free from tubercular infection.

## CANCER.

The deaths caused by cancer were six in number as compared with one last year and seven in 1911.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of your District taken as a whole gives little ground for criticism and stood the severe test of the Summer drought of 1913, without giving serious inconvenience, and I am glad to be able to report that no death occurred which could be traced to any of your supplies. At Caton there was a slight contamination owing to the sudden rainfall after the summer drought, but this has been rectified and the reservoir is in the course of being cleansed. There was a shortage of water at Melling during the Summer, the supply being at some distance and having to be carried during the hot weather.

## SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The disposal of sewage has given no trouble during the year, and I am glad to be able to report that no death has been caused by any defect in the system. Many improvements have been carried out, but I would suggest that Arkholme and Over Kellet, where the sewage in a crude state passes (in isolated cases) into the various streams, should be more efficiently treated.

## COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES ACT.

The inspection of Cowsheds and Dairies has been systematically carried out and their condition has been found to be satisfactory. I would urge upon all dairymen and cow-keepers, the great importance of cleanliness and ventilation as a preventative against tubercular infection, especially in the case of young calves, who in some instances are kept in dark, badly ventilated and over-heated surroundings, which I am convinced lays the foundation of many future tubercular troubles, and indirectly reacts upon the public health.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There is nothing to report with regard to these. They have been regularly inspected and found in a cleanly and satisfactory condition. The carcase of a cow was found to be infected with tuberculosis and destroyed.

## THE TOWN PLANNING ACT.

A number of improvements have been carried out under this Act, viz., re-roofing of houses, conversion of privies into water-closets, repair and alteration of drains, &c. This work is being systematically carried on during the year, 16 houses were inspected and 12 defects were remedied without making closing orders, one dwelling-house being demolished. There have been no cases of over-crowding. The chief defects are dampness, bad ventilation, and irregular yard surface.

| | |
|---|---|
| Population ... ... ... ... | 6,883 |
| Inhabited Houses ... ... ... | 1,494 |
| Average Number of Persons per House | 4·5 |

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

B. J. ACHESON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*23rd February, 1914.*